



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the PATENT APPLICATION of:

Maurizio Valle

Application No.: 10/616,830

Confirmation No.: 2681

Filed: July 10, 2003

For: SPROCKET SUPPORT MEMBER FOR A
BICYCLE SPROCKET ASSEMBLY

Group: 3611

Examiner: Daniel G. DePumpo

Our File: CAM3-PT045

Date: February 25, 2005

DECLARATION OF MAURIZIO VALLE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

I, Maurizio Valle, declare:

1. I am the named inventor in the above-identified patent application;
2. I got a technical diploma from Istituto Tecnico Lampertico located in Vicenza, Italy in 1974;
3. I have been working in the field of bicycle component design and manufacture since 1988;
4. I have been employed by Campagnolo S.r.l. since 1979;
5. I have currently have the title of Senior Designer;
6. I have been granted approximately 8 patents in the bicycle arts in the United States of America and foreign countries, including Italy;

7. I have reviewed the Office Action dated September 1, 2004 and I am very familiar with the technology described in German Patent Number 892 561 (DT '561); and U.S. Patent No. 6,102,821 (Nakamura).

8. The fastening device of DT '561 is used to attach a pedal crank that attaches to a spindle of the bottom bracket to one or more chainrings. A pedal crank 7/8 is fastened to the device 1 which in turn has a chain ring 11, 13 bolted to it.

9. My claimed invention is a sprocket support member for a bicycle sprocket assembly including at least one engagement portion having at least one tooth engagable with a splined surface of a bicycle freewheel and at least one fastening portion arranged in a radially external position with respect to the engagement portion. The fastening portion presents at least one hole for the mounting of at least one sprocket to the sprocket support member. The fastening portion is axially displaced with respect to the engagement portion.

10. A freewheel is a component of the rear hub that carries sprockets on the outside and contains a ratcheting mechanism inside, and presents a unique set of design criteria.

11. DT' 561 deals with an adapter for connecting the drive chainring to the right-hand crank arm that in turn attaches to the bottom bracket spindle on one end and a pedal at the other, which is subject to its own set of design requirements separate and apart from the freewheel design.

12. DT '561 is unrelated to and cannot be used with a bicycle freewheel since it does not have an engagement portion as defined by the present invention.

13. Nakamura describes a multiple sprocket assembly having one or more sprocket subassemblies for attachment to a free hub.

14. In my opinion as a person of at least ordinary skill in the art, a person of ordinary skill in this field would not be motivated to combine the fastening device for attaching a chainring to a pedal crank of DT '561 with the multiple sprocket assembly of Nakamura due to the different design requirements and the different uses.

15. Accordingly, in my opinion, a person of ordinary skill in this field would not be motivated to combine these references in the manner suggested in the Office Action.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardized the validity of the application or any patents issuing thereon.

Date: February 25, 2005 Maurizio Valle
Maurizio Valle